



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
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## Sales from NC Horticulture Operations Up 14 Percent in Five Years, USDA Reports

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the 2014 Census of Horticultural Specialties report, which shows 1,337 North Carolina horticulture operations sold a total \$570.7 million in floriculture, nursery and specialty crops in 2014, up 14% since 2009. The number of operations in NC increased by 316 during this time. NC ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation for total horticulture sales.

Categories where sales significantly increased from the previous Census of Horticulture include Potted Herbaceous Perennial Plants, Sod, Sprigs or Plugs, Cut Christmas Trees and Nursery Stock.

Horticultural production expenses totaled \$485.1 million in North Carolina in 2014. The single largest expense for horticultural specialties operations was hired labor totaling \$166.0 million which includes salaries paid to hired workers as well as benefits for workers. A total of 953 horticultural operations employed 14,125 hired workers in 2014.

### North Carolina Horticulture Value Of Sales, 2009 & 2014

Category	Value of Sales <sup>1</sup>		
	2009 (\$1,000)	2014 (\$1,000)	% Change
All Horticultural Crops	501,363	570,686	14%
Potted Herbaceous Perennial Plants	3,220	7,619	137%
Sod, Sprigs or Plugs	25,485	47,398	86%
Cut Christmas Trees	55,708	90,339	62%
Nursery Stock	147,966	184,770	25%
Cut Flowers	5,601	6,143	10%

<sup>1</sup> Represents Total Value of Sales for each category.

Access the complete results of the 2014 Census of Horticultural Specialties online at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov>.

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